

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 8, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 2972

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill No. 2972, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Education."

The purpose of this bill is to create a school Facilities Alignment Commission within the Department of Education, require the Department of Education to develop and provide a school facilities plan to the Commission, and require the Board of Education to implement the recommendations of the Commission unless they are disapproved in their entirety by the Legislature.

This bill is objectionable because it unfairly targets a selection of schools in specific geographic areas of the State. No rationale was provided as to why these school complexes were singled out while others were not targeted for possible closure or consolidation. Further, this was done without the public being given an opportunity to comment on this amendment prior to final passage of this bill.

This bill is also objectionable because the Facilities Alignment Commission it creates would be exempt from chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, covering public access and disclosure of information.

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For the foregoing reasons, I am returning House Bill
No. 2972 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Lingle", with a stylized, flowing script.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii